

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 5/14/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Nikki J. Schmidt (805) 781-5496	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a letter supporting SB 135 (Padilla) which would require the development of a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve the letter of support for SB 135 (Padilla) and direct the Board Chair to sign it and any subsequent letters of support.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Gregory J. Schulte, Assist. CAO			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nikki J. Schmidt, Administrative Office

DATE: 5/14/2013

SUBJECT: Submittal of a letter supporting SB 135 (Padilla) which would require the development of a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve the letter of support for SB 135 (Padilla) and direct the Board Chair to sign it and any subsequent letters of support.

DISCUSSION

Senator Alex Padilla has authored a bill that would require the development of a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California. The system would build upon the California Integrated Seismic Network creating a system of sensors throughout the State that would be able to effectively detect the strength and the progression of an earthquake. The intent is that the early warning system would then alert the public, perhaps within seconds, before potentially damaging ground shaking is felt. Such alerts would allow time to react whether it is to help others to safety, power down critical infrastructure, or turn off industrial machinery. Additionally, alerts would allow first responders to be in a preparedness mode rather than in a reactionary one. We believe this would save lives and mitigate injury and damages.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The bill would direct the California Office of Emergency Services, in collaboration with the California Institute of Technology, the California Geological Survey, the University of California at Berkeley, the United States Geological Survey, and others, to develop the comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California. The County's Office of Emergency Services is in support of this bill. As of the writing of this staff report, the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) position on this bill was pending.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial impacts to the Board approving this letter of support. The system is projected to cost approximately \$80 million; however, the bill does not appropriate any funding nor mention how the system will be paid for.

RESULTS

If SB 135 is approved, the State would begin the process of developing an earthquake early warning system. The system would contribute to a safe and livable community as the intent is to provide residents with warning alerts in the event of a major earthquake.

ATTACHMENTS

1. SB 135 Letter of Support
2. Senator Padilla support letter request
3. SB 135 Fact Sheet